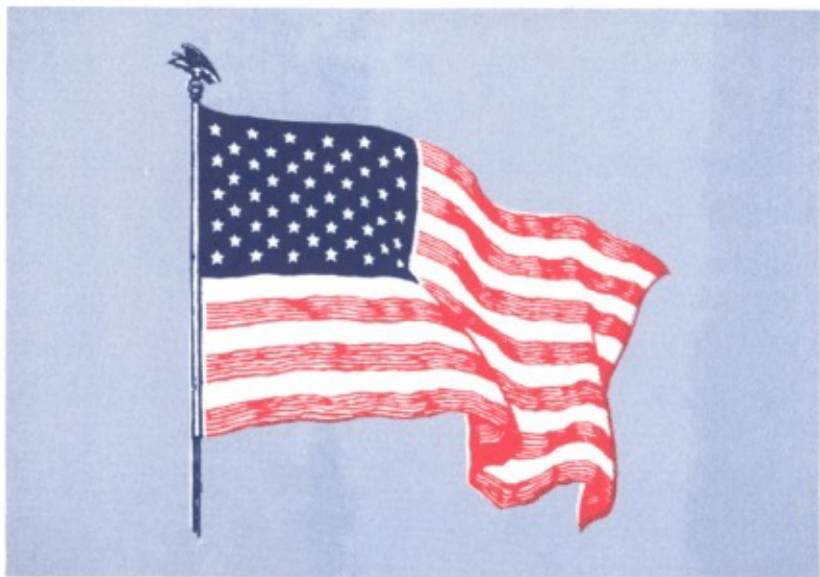




DEPARTMENT  
OF  
MILITARY AFFAIRS  
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY



# OUR FLAG

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Alice McDonald  
Superintendent of Public Instruction





COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
FRANKFORT 40601



The United States and Commonwealth of Kentucky flags are more than symbols, for they are truly an intracale of our heritage. Unfortunately, over the years, people have often forgotten how they should be properly displayed. Thus, in 1984, the Kentucky General Assembly directed that this publication be developed.

It is an honor for the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs to do so, and we hope that the information in this book will help ensure that these flags are properly displayed and that the appropriate signs of respect are given.

BILLY G. WELLMAN  
Major General, KyNG  
The Adjutant General

**SS85 BR 99  
IN HOUSE  
EXTRAORDINARY SESSION 1985  
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 11  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 1985**

A RESOLUTION directing the development of a set of guidelines for proper display, use and handling of the American flag.

WHEREAS, the United States flag was requested to be made by George Washington and adopted by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777; and

WHEREAS, the Stars and Stripes are recognized around the world as the symbol of a nation of freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS, American flags are being purchased at a record pace during these times of renewed patriotism and a regeneration of the American spirit; and

WHEREAS, it is important that Old Glory be handled with respect and displayed in a dignified manner;

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. That the Department of Military Affairs develop a set of guidelines for proper display, use, and handling of the American flag.

Section 2. That the guidelines may include recommendations on how to handle improper use and display of the flag.

Section 3. That the Department of Military Affairs submit a report on the guidelines to the Legislative Research Commission by January 1, 1986.

Section 4. That a copy of this resolution be delivered to the Adjutant General of the Department of Military Affairs.



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## THE ORIGIN OF OUR FLAG

Most people in the United States think that the Stars and Stripes were ordered by General George Washington, that Betsy Ross sewed the first flag, and that the Revolutionary forces used this flag from the day the Declaration of Independence was signed.

The story of the "Stars and Stripes" is the story of the nation itself; the evolution of the flag is symbolic of the evolution of our free institutions and of the development of our great nation as it is today.

In the early days of the Republic, when the thirteen original states were still British Colonies, the banners borne by the Revolutionary forces were as varied as the heritages of the people who made up the liberty-loving colonists.

The local flags and colonial devices displayed in battle on land and sea during the first months of the American Revolution carried the various grievances that the individual states had against the Mother Country.

The first public reference to the flag was published on March 10, 1774. A Boston newspaper, the *Massachusetts Spy*, ran this poem to the flag.

*"A ray of bright glory now beams from afar,  
Blest dawn of an empire to rise:  
The American Ensign now sparkles a star,  
Which shall shortly flame wide through the skies."*

On June 15, 1775, when General Washington had been appointed commander-in-chief of the Continental forces for the defense of American liberty, the Continental Congress was still corresponding with King George to present their grievances.

In the fall of 1775, the colonies chose a flag that reflected their feeling of unity with the Mother Country, but also expressed their demand to obtain justice and liberty.

In Taunton, Mass., a flag was unfurled in 1774 which carried the British Jack in the canton, and was combined with a solid red with the words, "Liberty and Union," printed on it.

The famous Rattlesnake flag carried by the Minutemen in 1775 showed thirteen red and white stripes with a rattlesnake emblazoned across it, and the warning words, "Don't Tread on Me."

In 1775 the banner that flew over Fort Moultrie displayed a crescent on a blue field with the word "Liberty" printed in white. When this flag was shot down by enemy muskets, a brave sergeant named Jasper nailed it back to the staff at the risk of his life.

The Pine Tree Flag, which flew over the troops at Bunker Hill in 1775, displayed the pine tree symbol of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. It was a white flag, with top and bottom stripe of blue, and it showed a green pine tree with the words, "Liberty Tree-An Appeal to God."

The first flag or ensign to represent the colonies at sea was raised by John Paul Jones from the deck of the ship *Alfred*, on Dec. 3, 1775. A month later, on Jan. 2, 1776, George Washington displayed this same design and named it the Grand Union Flag. It had thirteen alternate red and white stripes and a blue field with the crosses of Saint Andrew and Saint George.

After July 4, 1776, the people of the colonies felt the need of a national flag to symbolize their new spirit of unity and independence.

Congress on June 14, 1777, adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field." The significance of the colors was defined thus: "White signifies Purity and Innocence; Red, Hardiness and Valor; Blue, Vigilance, Perseverance and Justice."

Betsy Ross, a flag maker of Philadelphia, is credited by some historians with having made the first flag and with suggesting that the stars be five-pointed.

The home of Betsy Ross at 239 Arch Street, Philadelphia, is a National Shrine and the flag flies on a staff from her third floor window. Thousands of persons visit this house each year, which is known as the "Birthplace of Old Glory."

On May 1st, 1795, our flag was changed to 15 stripes and 15 stars with the inclusion of Vermont (1791) and Kentucky (1792) into the Union.

It was this flag that was "so gallantly streaming" over Fort McHenry when Francis Scott Key wrote the "Star Spangled Banner."

On April 4, 1818, Congress enacted the following law which is still in effect:

"That the Flag of the United States be 13 horizontal stripes, alternate red and white, and that on the admission of every State into the Union, one star to be added on the Fourth of July next succeeding admission."



## THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Francis Bellamy (1855-1931) wrote the pledge for the observance of the 400th Anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus. He was working on a journal for juveniles, called "Youth's Companion." He wrote the paper in 1891.

His job on the paper was to promote patriotism and the flying of the flag over public schools. He was made Chairman of the Executive Committee for the National Public School Celebration of Columbus Day in 1892. He felt every public and private school in the land should fly the flag.

Bellamy visited President Benjamin Harrison in Washington to ask him to endorse the idea of a flag over every school house and the teaching of patriotism in all the schools. On June 21, 1892, President Harrison signed the Proclamation that said, "Let the National Flag float over every school house in the country and the exercises be such as shall impress upon our youth the patriotic duties of American citizenship!"

Francis Bellamy wrote these now famous words, first printed in *Youth's Companion*, Sept. 8, 1892:

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States  
and to the Republic for which it stands,  
one Nation, indivisible, with liberty  
and justice for all."

At the second National Flag Conference held in Washington on Flag Day, 1924, they added the words "of America."

A further change was made in the Pledge by House Joint Resolution 243, approved by President Eisenhower on June 14, 1954. This amended the language by adding the words "under God," so that it now reads,

"one Nation under God, indivisible,  
with liberty and justice for all."





## THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Francis Scott Key (1779-1843), who wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner," the National Anthem of the United States, was born in Frederick County, Maryland. He was educated at St. John's College, Annapolis, Md. and practiced law in Frederick.

Key was living in Washington, D.C., at the time of the War of 1812. He received permission from President James Madison to ask the British to release his friend, Dr. William Beanes, who had been taken prisoner.

On Sept. 13, 1814, Key was rowed out to a British ship in Baltimore harbor to ask for the release of his friend. The release was secured, but Key was detained on ship overnight during the shelling of the fort. The British were afraid if they released him, that Key might give news of the British strength to the garrison. When morning came and he saw the American Flag still flying, he began to write a poem to commemorate the event. He must have written the words to the tune of "Anacreon in Heaven" which was an old British song, supposedly written by John Stafford Smith, a British composer.

The song gained wide popularity and was sung at many patriotic gatherings before it officially became the National Anthem by the Act of Congress in 1931.

The flag from Fort McHenry was restored and is now in the Museum of History and Technology in Washington D.C.

Many Americans probably don't realize that there are several verses to our National Anthem. Here are the complete lyrics:

O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous flight,  
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.  
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen thro' the mists of the deep,  
 Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,  
 What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,  
 As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?  
 Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,  
 In full glory reflected, now shines on the stream;  
 'Tis the star-spangled banner: O, long may it wave  
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore  
 That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,  
 A home and a country should leave us no more?  
 Their blood has wash'd out their foul footsteps' pollution.  
 No refuge could save the hireling and slave  
 From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave:  
 And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave  
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

O thus be it ever when free-men shall stand  
 Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation;  
 Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n-rescued land  
 Praise the Pow'r that hath made and preserv'd us a nation!  
 Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
 And this be our motto: "In God is our Trust!"  
 And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!





## FLAG TERMS AND PHRASES

**BANNER:** Originally a large medieval flag, rectangular in shape and usually carried in battle. Today the word is synonymous with flag.

**CANTON:** The four quarters of a flag are named cantons, but this word is applied particularly to the upper canton in the hoist, that is, the upper left hand corner of the flag; the canton is sometimes also called the union.

**COLOR:** Specifically, a flag carried by an infantry or other dismounted military unit; more generally, any flag, as in the phrase, national colors.

**DIPPING:** Practice, formerly followed, by merchant vessels lowering their ensigns in salute on meeting a naval vessel. The practice was also, on occasion, observed between warships.

**FIELD:** The rectangular blue area of the flag upon which the 50 stars representing the states are placed.

**FLY:** The length of a flag from the hoist to the edge.

**JACK:** A flag, smaller than the ensign, flown at the bow by warships when at anchor or dressed with flags for a special event. Occasionally, it is also flown by other vessels.

**MERCHANT FLAG:** A flag flown by a commercial or other private vessel; sometimes the same as the national flag, sometimes different from it.

**NATIONAL COLOR:** A term designating the United States Flag carried by dismounted or unmounted units.

**NATIONAL ENSIGN:** A term designating the United States Flag flown by airships, ships and boats.

**NATIONAL FLAG:** A flag representing a country; its use is sometimes restricted by the government, but more often extended to the citizens in general. The term, when applied specifically to the United States flag, refers to that flag in general without regard to a particular size or manner of display.

**NATIONAL STANDARD:** A term designating the United flag carried by mounted, mechanized or motorized units.

**PENNANT:** A narrow flag which tapers gently toward the fly. Warships frequently fly masthead pennants.

**UNION:** A design, signifying union, used on a national emblem. It is the honor point of the flag. On the United States flag, it is the blue field containing the group of white stars.

**TO "HOIST" OR "RAISE A FLAG":** To draw the banner to the top of a pole, staff or mast, usually for the first time.

**TO "DIP THE FLAG":** To lower it slightly then raise it quickly as on ship-board, to salute another vessel or a fort.

**THE FLAG "AT HALF MAST":** This means mourning. When a President, Governor, or other high official dies, flags are lowered half way or at half mast, as a sign of mourning. Sometimes the memory of a private citizen, not an official, is honored this way. Fishing craft and other vessels returning with flags at half-mast show that someone has been lost at sea.

**TO "STRIKE THE FLAG":** To lower it altogether as a sign of surrender or submission.

## WHEN THE FLAG SHOULD BE DISPLAYED

For nearly 150 years after Congress authorized the design for our flag, citizens had no uniform set of rules to guide them in displaying and showing respect for the flag.

To supply such a guide, a National Flag Conference was held in Washington, D.C. on Flag Day, June 14, 1923. Representatives of sixty-eight organizations met and drew up a Flag Code, which was revised by a second Conference in 1924.

Congress in 1942 adopted a resolution which made the Flag Code a law. This resolution was amended in December 1942; and the Flag Code, as it is commonly called, became Public Law 829, and amendments 77th Congress.

Here are some of the provisions contained in it:

"It is the universal custom to display the flag from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flagstaves that are in the open. However, the flag may be displayed at night out-of-doors, if properly illuminated, upon special occasions when it is desired to produce a patriotic effect. The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously. The flag may be displayed out-of-doors on the days when the weather is inclement, providing the flag is of the all-weather material. The flag should be displayed daily, on or near the main administration building of every public institution. The flag should be displayed in or near every polling place on election days. The flag should be displayed during school days in or near every school-house."



## SPECIAL DAYS TO FLY THE FLAG

Jan. 1 . . . . .	New Year's Day
Jan. 20 . . . . .	Inauguration Day (Once every four years)
Feb. 12 . . . . .	Lincoln's Birthday
Feb. . . . .	President's Day (3rd Monday)
Easter . . . . .	Variable
Mar. 17 . . . . .	St. Patrick's Day
May 1 . . . . .	Loyalty Day
May . . . . .	Mother's Day (2nd Sunday)
May . . . . .	Armed Forces Day (3rd Saturday)
May . . . . .	Memorial Day (Last Monday at Half-staff until noon)
June 14 . . . . .	Flag Day
June . . . . .	Father's Day (3rd Sunday)
July 4 . . . . .	Independence Day
Sept. . . . .	Labor Day (1st Monday)
Sept. 17 . . . . .	Citizenship Day, Constitution Day
Oct. . . . .	Columbus Day (2nd Monday)
Nov. . . . .	Election Day (1st Tuesday)
Nov. 11 . . . . .	Veterans Day
Nov. . . . .	Thanksgiving (Last Thursday)
Dec. 21 . . . . .	Forefathers Day
Dec. 25 . . . . .	Christmas Day

In addition, Birthdays of States and State Holidays, and such other days as may be proclaimed by the President.





## THE FLAG IS PASSING BY

In action, as well as in thought and word, we pay respect to the flag.

In *The Flag Goes By*, Henry Holcomb Bennett describes the proper response to our flag in passing parade.

"Hats off! Along the street there comes a blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums, a flash of color beneath the sky." The Flag Code tells us how the flag is properly displayed in a parade.

"The flag, when carried in a procession with another flag or flags, should be either on the marching right; that is, the flag's own right, or if there is a line of other flags in front of the center of that line.

"The flag should not be displayed on a float in a parade except from a staff.

"The flag should not be draped over the hood, top, sides or back of a vehicle or of a railroad train or a boat. When the flag is displayed on a motorcar, the staff shall be fixed firmly to the chassis.

"When the flag is displayed other than by being flown from a staff, it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out, or so suspended that its folds fall as free as though the flag were staffed."

## OUR FLAG FLYS ABOVE ALL THE REST

Patriotic, public-spirited citizens can look to the Flag Code for correct answers to questions regarding the display and use of the Flag of the United States.

The Flag Code, for example, gives the rules to follow when the Flag of the United States is displayed with the flag of the United Nations, or with other national or international flags.

The Flag Code, which was amended by an act of the 83rd Congress in 1953, reads as follows:

"No person shall display the flag of the United Nations or any other national or international flag equal, above, or in a position of superior prominence or honor to or in place of the Flag of the United States at any place within the United States or any Territory or possession thereof: Provided, that nothing in this section shall make unlawful the continuance of the practice heretofore followed of displaying the flag of the United Nations in a position of superior prominence or honor, and other national flags in positions of equal prominence or honor, with that of the Flag of the United States at the headquarters of the United Nations."





# HOW TO DISPLAY THE FLAG



1. When the flag is displayed flat, either horizontally or vertically, on a wall or in a window, the union (or blue field) should be uppermost and to the flag's own right (to the observer's left when facing the flag).

2. When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting from a window sill, balcony, or front of a building, the union should be at the staff's peak (unless the flag is to be displayed at half-staff). When suspended across a street, the flag should be vertical, with the union to the north in an east-west street, or to the east in a north-south street. When suspended from a rope between a house and a pole at the edge of a sidewalk, the flag should be raised out from the building toward to pole, union first.

3. When displayed with another flag from crossed staffs, the National flag should be on its own right, with its staff in front of the staff of the other flag.

4. When other flags are displayed from staffs with the National flag, the latter should be at the center, or at the highest point of the group.



A. To fold the flag correctly bring the striped half up over the blue field; then fold again.



B. Bring the lower striped corner to the upper edge, forming a triangle. The outer point is turned inward on the upper edge to form a second triangle.



C. Continue to fold the flag in triangles until the entire length of the flag is folded.

D. When the flag is completely folded only the blue field should be visible, and it should have the triangular shape of a cocked hat.



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5. When pennants or other flags are flown on the same halyard with the National flag the latter should always be at the peak. Only the UN flag at UN Headquarters or the church pennant during services at sea may be flown above the National flag.

6. When the flags of two or more nations are displayed they should be flown from separate staffs of the same height.

7. When the National Flag is carried in a procession with another flag or flags it should be either on the marching right or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.

8. When carried with a line of other flags, the National flag should always be carried in front of the center of that line. Any time the National flag is being carried it should fly aloft and free ... never held flat or horizontally.



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9. Never use the National flag as drapery. Bunting of blue, white, and red is the proper decoration for a desk or the front of a platform.

10. When displayed on a stage, on a platform, in the chancel of a church, or in front of an audience or congregation at the same level, the National flag should be placed on a staff in the position of honor to the speaker's right. Any other flag should be at his left.



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11. When it is to be flown at half-staff, the flag is first raised to the peak and then lowered to the half-staff position. When being lowered for the day it should first be raised to the peak.

12. When the flag is used to cover a casket, it should be placed so the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be allowed to touch the ground, nor lowered into the grave.



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## **RESPECT WHEN FLOWN WITH OTHER FLAGS**

The Flag Code explains how our respect can best be shown on appropriate occasions when the Flag of the United States is displayed with one or more other flags or pennants.

"The Flag of the United States, when displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, should be on the right, the flag's own right; and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

"The Flag of the United States should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of States or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.

"When flags of States, cities, or localities, or pennants of societies are flown on the same halyard with the Flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the Flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the Flag of the United States or to the right of the Flag of the United States.

"When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace."

## **UNFURL HER STANDARD TO THE AIR**

The Flag Code explains how to accomplish keeping the standard to the air when displaying the flag.

"When the Flag of the United States is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the window sill, balcony, or front of a building, the union of the flag (which contains the stars) should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is a half-mast. When the flag is suspended over a sidewalk from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the sidewalk, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.

"When the flag is displayed over the middle of the street, it should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street."





## WHEN TO SALUTE

Public affairs, parades, and gatherings provide opportunities for citizens to honor the flag.

This honor can be in song, in word or in deed, or all three, by means of our National Anthem, the Pledge of Allegiance, or action as explained in the Flag Code:

"During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the flag or when the flag is passing in a parade or in a review, all persons present should face the flag, stand at attention, and salute. Those present in uniform should render the military salute. When not in uniform, men should remove the headdress with the right hand holding it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Men without hats should salute in the same manner. Aliens should stand at attention. Women should salute by placing the right hand over the heart. The salute to the flag in the moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes.

"When the National Anthem is played and the flag is not displayed, all present should stand and face toward the music. Those in uniform should salute at the first note of the anthem, retaining this position until the last note. All other should stand at attention, men removing the headdress. When the flag is displayed, all present face the flag and salute.

"The Pledge of Allegiance is rendered by standing with the right hand over the heart. However, civilians will always show full respect to the flag when the pledge is given by standing at attention, men removing the headdress, and placing the right hand over the heart. Persons in uniform shall render the military salute.



## **DISPLAY IN CHURCHES AND AUDITORIUMS**

The Flag Code explains how the Flag of the United States is correctly placed in churches or on the speaker's platform in public auditoriums.

"When used on a speaker's platform, the flag, if displayed flat, should be displayed above and behind the speaker. When displayed from a staff in a church or public auditorium, if it is displayed in the chancel of a church, or on the speaker's platform in a public auditorium, the flag should occupy the position of honor and be placed at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he faces the congregation or audience. Any other flag so displayed in the chancel or on the platform should be placed at the clergyman's or speaker's left as he faces the congregation or audience.

## **AT UNVEILINGS AND BURIAL SERVICES**

On certain occasions, our flag is not only itself an object of respect; it is also a symbol of respect for something or someone else. Provisions for display are as follows:

"The flag should form a distinctive feature of the ceremony of unveiling a statue or monument, but it should never be used as the covering for the statue or monument.

"The flag when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. By "half-staff" is meant lowering the flag to one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff. Crepe streamers may be affixed to spearheads or flagstaves in a parade only by order of the President of the United States.

"When the flag is used to cover a casket, it should be so placed that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground."

The flag for the burial service of an honorably discharged veteran is furnished by the Veterans Administration, Washington, D.C. It may be obtained from the nearest post office upon presentation of proper proof of honorable discharge. The flag must be presented to the next of kin, or close associate, at the appropriate moment in the burial service.



## PROPER RESPECT FOR OUR FLAG

The flag should always be displayed in a proper and dignified manner. There are precautions which should be followed to make sure that no disrespect is shown to our flag. These are in the Flag Code:

"No disrespect should be shown to the Flag of the United States; the flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, State flags, and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor.

"The flag should never be displayed with the union down save as a signal of dire distress.

"The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water or merchandise.

"The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally but always aloft and free.

"The flag should never be used as drapery of any sort whatsoever, never festooned, drawn back, not up, in folds, but always allowed to fall free. Bunting of blue, white and red, always arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle, and the red below, should be used for covering a speaker's desk, draping the front of a platform, and for decoration in general.

"The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used or stored in such a manner as will permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way."



## OUR FLAG IS NOT A DECORATION

The bold red, white and blue combination of colors in the Flag of the United States and the distinctive design command immediate attention of all who see them. This attention-arresting quality of our flag, however, should never be utilized for purely decorative purposes.

The Flag Code explains how mis-use and mis-treatment of our flag can be avoided:

"The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.

"The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.

"The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.

"The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. It should not be embroidered on such articles as cushions or handkerchiefs or the like, printed or otherwise impressed on paper napkins or boxes or anything that is designed for temporary use and discard; or used as any portion of a costume or athletic uniform. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the flag is flown.

"The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferable by burning."

The only agency allowed by law to use the Flag in an advertisement is the United States Government.



## MISUSE OF THE FLAG

Down through our history there have been people in the United States who, for one reason or another, have desecrated the flag to show contempt for the country.

Every state has a law forbidding defacing, desecration, or showing disrespect for the flag of the United States. They provide penalties ranging from a \$5 to \$10 fine in Indiana, to a maximum sentence of 25 years in Texas.

In 1968 Congress passed an act setting penalties for casting contempt on the flag. The Federal law declared that a person may be imprisoned for up to a year and/or fined up to \$1,000 for intentionally casting contempt upon the United States Flag, a piece of one or a picture of one, or "publicly mutilating, defacing, defiling, burning or trampling on it."

## FLAGS FOR MILITARY FUNERALS

Flags are provided for burial services of military personnel and most veterans. If a person dies while on active duty, his own Service furnishes the flag used to drape his coffin. Flags for the funerals of veterans are provided by the Veterans Administration (VA) and may be obtained at local post offices. The veterans must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable and must have served either in wartime or the Korean conflict, or have served at least one peacetime enlistment unless discharged or released sooner for disability incurred in line of duty.

The flag will be presented ... at the proper time during the burial service ... to the next of kin. In the event that there is no next of kin, it will be presented, upon request, to a close friend or associate of the deceased veteran.

Before issuing a flag, the VA officials or postal officials will require evidence of the character of discharge as well as proof of death. When proper evidence is given, the flag will be issued promptly.



## FLAG LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The design of the United States flag may be altered only by an Act of Congress or a Presidential order. Federal laws control certain uses of the flag; for example, no trademark can be registered if it contains the flag. The States also have their own flag laws and impose penalties on those who violate them.

The Department of Defense and the military Services have issued instructions, regulations, and manuals prescribing the use and display of the flag. They are: DoD Instruction No. 1005.6, "Half-Staffing of the National Flag"; AR 840-10, "Flags and Guidons"; Navy Manual DNC-27, "U.S. Naval Flags and Pennants; Description, Uses, Customs"; Air Force Manual 900-2, "Flags, Uses and Display of"; U.S. Marine Corps Flag Manual, MCO P10520.3; U.S. Coast Guard Regulations, Part 8, Section 20-8-2, "Display of Flags and Pennants."

Men and women in service are expected to abide by the laws and regulations of their Service. In addition, Congress prepared a flag code more than 20 years ago. It is discussed in the following section.

## HOW TO DISPLAY THE FLAG

Traditional customs and practices of displaying the flag and insuring that it is properly honored were gathered together by veterans' and other patriotic organizations some 40 years ago. These served as a voluntary guide until World War II when Congress prepared a formal code of flag etiquette to assure uniform practices throughout the Nation.

Presented in a joint resolution by both Houses of the 77th Congress, the code became Public Law 829-77 on 22 December 1942. It serves as a guide for all citizens who are not required to conform to regulations or rules of the Armed Forces and various other branches of the Government. These are general rules and may vary somewhat from the specific rules of the Services and agencies.

1. The flag should be displayed on all days, especially on New Year's Day, 1 January; Inauguration Day, 20 January; Lincoln's Birthday, 12 February; Washington's Birthday, third Monday in February; Easter Sunday (variable); Loyalty and Law Day, 1 May; Mother's Day, second Sunday in May; Armed Forces Day, third Saturday in May; Memorial Day (half-staff until noon), last Monday in May; Flag Day, 14 June; Independence Day, 4 July; Labor Day, first Monday in September; Constitution and Citizenship Day, 17 September; Columbus Day, second Monday in October; Veterans Day, fourth Monday in October; Thanksgiving Day, fourth Thursday in November; Christmas Day, 25 December; such other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States; the birthdays of States (dates of admission); and on State holidays.

2. It is customary to display the flag on buildings and on stationary flagstaffs in the open only from sunrise to sunset. There is no law against displaying it at night with proper illumination. It may be displayed at night on special occasions when it is desired to produce a patriotic effect. A citizen does not have to get special permission to do so. The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is used.

3. The flag should be raised briskly and lowered ceremoniously. Do not raise the flag while it is furled. Unfurl, then raise quickly. Lower it slowly and with dignity.

4. When displayed in the chancel or on a platform in a church, the National flag should be placed on a staff at the clergyman's right, other flags at his left.

5. The same general rule applies when the flag is displayed on a platform, in a hall, on a stage, or on the same level as the audience. The United States flag should occupy the position of honor to the right of the speaker as he faces the audience. Any other flag should be at his left.

6. When displayed over the middle of the street, the flag should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street, or to the east in a north and south street.

7. When displayed with another flag from crossed staffs, the United States flag should be on the right (the flag's own right) and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

8. When flags of States or cities or pennants of societies are flown on the same halyard with the United States flag, the latter should always be at the peak. When flown from adjacent staffs, the Stars and Stripes should be raised first and lowered last.

9. When the flag is suspended over a sidewalk from a rope extending from house to pole at the edge of the sidewalk, it should be raised out from the building toward the pole, union first.

10. When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at any angle from the window sill, balcony, or front of a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff (unless the flag is to be displayed at half-staff).

11. When the flag is displayed from a staff along a wall, it should be placed to the flag's own right (the observer's left) with State and other flags to the left, or if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line. This rule, also applies to the display of the National flag in a bracket from the wall.

12. When the flag is displayed in a manner other than by being flown from a staff, it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window, should be displayed in the same way, that is, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street.

13. When the flag is used to cover a casket, it should be so placed that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.

14. When the flag is used in unveiling a statue or monument, it should not serve as a covering of the object to be unveiled. If it is displayed on such occasions, do not allow the flag to fall to the ground, but let it be carried aloft to form a feature of the ceremony.

15. When carried, the flag should always be aloft and free ... never flat or horizontal.

16. When carried in a procession with another flag or flags, the Stars and Stripes should be either on the marching right, or, when there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.

17. When a number of flags of States or cities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs with our National flag, the latter should be at the center and at the highest point of the group.

18. When the flags of two or more nations are displayed they should be flown from separate staffs of the same height, and the flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one

nation above that of another nation in time of peace.

19. No other flag may be flown above the Stars and Stripes, except: (1) the United Nations flag at UN Headquarters; (2) the church pennant, a dark blue cross on a white background, during church services conducted by navy chaplains at sea.

20. The flag should not be draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle, train, or boat.

21. The flag should never be displayed with the union down except as a signal of dire distress.

22. The flag should not be dipped to any person or thing, with one exception: Naval vessels, upon receiving a salute of this type from a vessel registered by a nation formally recognized by the United States, must return the compliment.

23. Do not use the flag as a portion of a costume or athletic uniform. Do not embroider it on cushions or handkerchiefs and the like, nor print it on paper napkins or boxes, or anything designed for temporary use and discard.

24. Never use the flag as drapery of any sort whatsoever. Bunting of blue, white, and red ... arranged with the blue above, the white in the middle, and the red below ... should be used for such purposes of decoration as covering a speaker's desk or draping the front of a platform.

25. Do not use the flag as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything. Never place upon the flag, or attach to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.

26. Fringe is not considered part of the flag. It is used as an honorable enrichment only. The color ... yellow of gold ... is symbolic of supreme honor, faith, and wisdom. It is customary to place fringe on flags that are carried or used for display purposes, but fringe is not used on flags flown from halyards or fixed flagstaffs.

27. Take every precaution to prevent the flag from becoming soiled. It should not be allowed to touch the ground or floor, nor to brush against objects.

Many of the Nation's drycleaners, in cooperation with the American Legion, will dryclean the National flag free of charge between 1 and 12 June (provided the owner of the flag promises to fly it on Flag Day, 14 June).

28. When the flag is no longer a fitting emblem for display because of wear or damage, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

29. During the ceremony of raising or lowering the flag, or when the flag is passing in a parade or in a review, those present in uniform should render the right-hand salute. When not in uniform, men should remove their head-dress with the right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart; women should place the right hand over the heart.





## DISPLAYING THE FLAG AT NIGHT

Although there is no law forbidding display of the flag at night, it is customary to display it in the open only from sunrise to sunset. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day, if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. When an exception to this practice is regularly made at a public building or monument, it is ordinarily authorized by a Presidential proclamation or public law, or continued because of a long-standing tradition.

For example, the late President Kennedy, in a proclamation of 12 June 1961, authorized the flying of the flag "at all times, during the day and night, except when the weather is inclement" at the Marine Corps Memorial (Iwo Jima) in Arlington, Virginia.

The flag is flown day and night at the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine in Baltimore, Maryland, under a proclamation issued by President Truman in July 1948. The day and night flying of the Stars and Stripes at Flag House, flag House Square, Baltimore, is by authority of Public Law 319, 83d Congress, 26 March 1954.

The flag is flown day and night at the east and west fronts of the United States Capitol. There is no official authority for this. The custom began during World War I and has continued ever since. In the same way, custom dictates the use of the flag at night as well as during the day at various other places in the United States and abroad.

## FLYING THE FLAG AT HALF-STAFF

The custom of lowering the flag to half-mast or half-staff ... that is, hauling it down to one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff ... is centuries old. It comes from the old military practice of "Striking the Colors" in time of war as a sign of submission. It is known that as early as 1627 the flying of a flag at half-staff was a sign of mourning, and this custom has been continued to the present day.

When it is to be flown at half-staff, the flag should be raised to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. Before lowering the flag for the day it should again be raised to the peak.

On Memorial Day the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon only; then raised to the top of staff.

Rules for flying the National flag at half-staff on Federal buildings, grounds, and facilities, including naval vessels, upon the death of principal officials and former officials of the U.S. Government and the Governors of the States, Territories, and possessions as a mark of respect to their memory are contained in Presidential Proclamation 3044, signed by President Eisenhower on 3 March 1954.

The proclamation directs that the flags shall be flown at half-staff:

- ★ Thirty days from the day of death of the President or a former President.
- ★ Ten days from the day of death of the Vice President, the Chief of Justice or a retired Chief Justice of the United States, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- ★ From the day of death until interment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a member of the Cabinet, a former Vice President, the Secretary of the Army, the Navy, or the Air Force, or the Governor of a State, Territory, or possession.
- ★ On the day of death and the following day for a U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, or the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico.

Under the provisions of the Kentucky Flag Code, by order of Governor, the State Flag will be flown at half-staff at all installations or places on the following occasions.

- ★ Memorial Day, May 30 for 1/2 day until noon.
- ★ President, ex-President or President elect for 30 days.
- ★ Vice President, the Chief Justice or retired Chief Justice of the United States or the Speaker of the House of Representatives for 10 days.
- ★ A United States Senator or United States Representative or Governor of this of this State from day of death to day of interment.
- ★ By order of the Governor in memory of State employees such as Kentucky State Police members, Firemen, Military personnel, etc., who have died in the line of duty or as a result of such duty or service.

In the event of death of other officials, former officials, or foreign dignitaries, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff according to Presidential instructions or orders, or "in accordance with recognized customs or practices not inconsistent with law."

The proclamation also provides that heads of Government departments and agencies may direct that the flag be flown at half-staff on "buildings, grounds, or naval vessels under their jurisdiction" on occasions other than those specified.

In line with this provision is Department of Defense Instruction 1005.6 which directs that the flag will be flown at facilities under the department's jurisdiction on the death of a President-elect, just as for a President or former President. The directive also sets forth rules for flying the flag at half-staff on the death of top-ranking military officials and former officials. For instance, the flag is to be flown at half-staff from the day of death until sunset the day of interment on the death of the Chairman or a former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Department of Defense.





## KENTUCKY'S FLAG

"The official flag of the Commonwealth of Kentucky shall be navy blue with the seal of the Commonwealth encircled by a wreath, the lower half of which shall be goldenrod in bloom and the upper half the words *Commonwealth of Kentucky* on the center thereof." This is the way the Kentucky Revised Statutes described Kentucky's flag, but for one to fully understand its origin and meaning, we must delve into Kentucky's colorful history.

Kentucky gained statehood in 1792 after having been a territory of Virginia. On December 20, 1792 when the Commonwealth was six months and 20 days old, the General Assembly of Kentucky approved this act: "That the Governor be empowered and is hereby required to provide at public charge a seal of the Commonwealth, and procure same to be engraved with the following decree, viz: Two friends embracing, with the name of the state over their heads and around about the following motto: *United We Stand, Divided We Fall*."

Thus was born the basic emblem that was later to adorn the official flag of the Commonwealth. A precise history of the heraldic meaning of the emblem is not at hand. Throughout the years, two friends embracing have been depicted in many costumes and uniforms as there were artists to create them. As to

the motto, the matter is somewhat more distinct. It seems as though Governor Isaac Shelby, Kentucky's first governor, and a veteran of the Revolution, had a fondness for a ballad written in 1768 by a Maryland patriot, entitled *Liberty Song*, which included these four stirring lines:

*Then join in hand  
Brave Americans all,  
By uniting we stand  
By dividing we fall.*

Kentucky's flag was not officially designed until approximately 126 years after the adoption of its great seal. On March 26, 1918 the Legislature passed an act authorizing and creating an official state flag. The first official state flag was made in 1920. W.B. Hoke of Louisville was chairman of a committee to have the flag made, and Mrs. James G. Camp furnished the design. Bryan Pleating Company of Louisville made this flag.

A number of attempts were made to improve the design of the original flag but with little success until the administration of Governor Flem D. Sampson (1927-1931) when Adjutant General W.H. Jones communicated with the Historical Society for information on the state flag. Miss Jessie Cox (later Mrs. J.K. Burgess), art teacher in a Frankfort school, drew a design from the wording of the act. From this design, three flags were made. One of Miss Cox's handmade flags is in the possession of the Historical Society.

Through succeeding years, the early design deteriorated in favor of more inexpensive production methods until the majority of the flags in use had lost the richness in the original work. There were as many different designs as there were flag manufactures.

In the early 1960's, the staff of Kentucky Adjutant General Arthur Y. Lloyd, with the blessings of Governor Bert Combs, consulted with the Historical Society and traced every history of early designs. Finally, the finer parts of all past designs were to be preserved. Harold Collins, a artist with the Department of Public Information, was asked to produce three designs in color. Again, the best features of the three were selected, and concurrence was obtained from the Governor. A final color original was purchased from a Louisville artist. After much consultation, the colors and design were accepted, and a bill was drafted describing the flag in detail by the staff of the Adjutant General's office. The General Assembly enacted this bill into law during its 1962 session, and Section 2.030 Kentucky Revised Statutes became the legal authority for the State flag. A line drawing of the flag was submitted with the bill and was printed in the statute, being the first and only illustration to grace the pages of Kentucky's statutes.

## KENTUCKY FLAG CODE

The Flag of the United States and the Flag of the State of Kentucky shall be prominently installed, displayed and maintained in the following places:

A. In the courtrooms of all courts of the State.

B. In all rooms where any court or any state, county, or municipal commission holds any sessions.

The Flag of the United States and the Flag of the State shall be prominently displayed during business hours upon or in front of the buildings or grounds of or at each of the following places:

(a) Each public building belonging to the State, a county, or a municipality.

(b) At the grounds of each state park.

(c) At or upon the grounds of each campus of the state universities.

(d) At the entrance or upon the grounds or upon the administration building of every university, college, high school and elementary school, both public and private, within the State.

(e) Be prominently displayed during any and all games and performances of every kind which take place in a stadium, or other open air site, and at all race tracks where racing is being conducted.

(f) Where the National and State Flags are used, they shall be of the same size. If only one flagpole is used, the National Flag shall be above the State Flag and the State Flag shall be hung in such a manner as not to interfere with any part of the National Flag. At all times the National Flag shall be placed in the position of first honor.

(g) When the Flag of the United States is flown at half staff, so shall the State Flag. When flown at half staff, the Flags should be hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half staff position, but before lowering for the day, the Flags should again be raised to the peak.

By the order of the Governor, the State Flag shall be flown at half staff at all installations or places on the following occasions:

★ May 30, Memorial Day, 1/2 day until noon

★ On death of individuals as follows:

- President, ex-President or President-elect - 30 days

- Vice President, the Chief Justice or retired Chief Justice of the United States or the Speaker of the House of Representatives - 10 days

- United States Senator or United States Representative or Governor of this State - Day of death to day of interment

- By order of the Governor in the memory of State employees such as State Police members, Firemen, Military personnel, etc., who have died in the line of duty or as a result of such duty or service - Period to be prescribed.

(h) The correct method of folding the Flag of the State of Kentucky is illustrated on pages 10-11 and is the same procedure as the folding of the Flag of the United States.

(i) The National and State Flags shall be carried at the head of any procession or parade of:

- ★ The National Guard
- ★ Any other state military organization
- ★ City or fire department
- ★ Veterans Organizations



## 2.030 STATE FLAG

(1) The official state flag of the Commonwealth of Kentucky shall be of navy blue silk, nylon, wool or cotton bunting, or some other suitable material with the Seal of the Commonwealth encircled by a wreath, the lower half of which shall be goldenrod in bloom and the upper half the words "Commonwealth of Kentucky," embroidered, printed, painted, or stamped on the center thereof. The dimensions of the flag may vary, but the length shall be one and nine-tenths times the width and the diameter of the seal and encirclement shall be approximately two-thirds the width of the flag.

(2) The approved official drawings of the state flag shall be permanently retained in the files of the office of the Secretary of state. All state flags for official use of the Commonwealth shall conform as to color and design with these official drawings.

(3) The emblem of the head of a flag staff used to display the flag of the Commonwealth of Kentucky shall be the Kentucky cardinal in an alert but restful pose, cast in bronze, brass or other suitable material.

(4) The flying of the state flag at all state buildings and installations including public school buildings, national guard armories, state parks and other such buildings is considered proper and is encouraged.

HISTORY: 1962 c 114, eff. 6-14-62  
KS 4618m



